

St Monica's Catholic Primary School Newsletter

Lent Term
February 2023

News from the school

Hello and welcome to our newsletter.

I hope you will be interested in seeing what the children have been up to, including with regard to RE and the Catholic life of our school.

Thanks very much for your attendance at so many school events this term, including our Parents' Information evenings, Stay and Prays, Stay and Plays, Phonics workshop, sports events and Open Mornings for school places. We have had the highest ever attendances for Information evenings and it is very much appreciated.

Thanks also for your contributions to our Harvest Day food collections for the MK Food Bank – again, we received more food than we have had previously.

Thanks for your considerable support of the school when there is so much going on around all of us at the moment.

We have a number of school places available in a number of year groups so, if your family or friends' families are looking for school places, please contact the school office.

School will end for half term break today Friday, 21st October. School will re-open to children on Monday 31st October.

All the best for half term and we will see you again on Monday, 31st.

Kind regards,
Mr O'Malley
Headteacher



Religious Education News

This half term the children took part in a competition across the school. We spoke about the epiphany and children designed 20+C+M+B+23 signs to place above our classroom doors. Mr O'Malley look at all of the designs and chose some beautiful ones to have around the school.



The children across Key Stage 2 have continued to attend Mass at St. Augustines. The children are enjoying taking the responsibility of sharing the readings.

We would like to take the time to thank all of our children and families for their support over the Christmas period. The children across the school shared their incredible talents with Nativity plays, concerts and musical talent showcases. We were so proud of the children and we were happy to see so many families enjoying the shows.



Raffle Prize Winners!

We sent you a ParentMail detailing how to enter our hot school dinner raffle that took place on Thursday 19th January 2023. You needed to order a hot school dinner for your child to be entered into the raffle. The winners are detailed below.

Obehi and Theo both won a MiniMasters family pass! Congratulations!



Maths

All year groups have been learning about number, place value and addition and subtraction in their maths lessons at school this half term. If you would like to see a copy of our calculation policy, it can be found on our website under the 'curriculum by subject area' tab.

Please do help your children with learning their timetables. Children in years 3– 6 have a login and password to TTRockstars which they can access at home.

Maths challenge – answer at the end of the newsletter. Can you work out Freddie's mother's height?

Freddie is half as tall as his mother.

Freddie is one metre shorter than his father.

Freddie's father is 180 centimetres tall.

How many centimetres tall is Freddie's mother?

Answer at the end

News from Nursery

Nursery have been enjoying learning some Traditional Tales this term. When we read Jack and the Beanstalk we grew some cress. We enjoyed watching the cress grow and looking at it with magnifying glasses as it grew...

We have been practising using 'pinch and flick' when we pick up our pencils to make marks.



News from Reception

This term Reception have been busy learning about Space. We started off our topic with a very special day where we became ASTRONAUTS! We created moon rocks and made space food, we had a fantastic day.



News from Year 1/2

Our children have been enjoying our new Superhero topic this half term.

We had great fun on our superhero day. The children looked great in all of their Superhero costumes and could tell us all about their special powers!

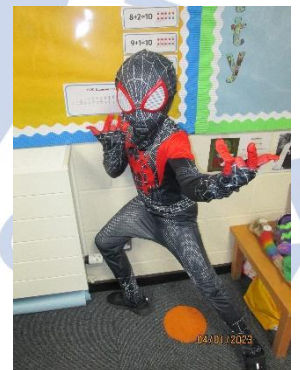
We have had opportunities to write some fantastic superhero descriptions, stories and riddles in our writing lessons.

Superhero Riddle

I have a red and blue sate.
I can fly.
I have a golden star on my sate.
I have blond hair.
I have a red belt.
I am faster than a train.

Superhero Riddle

I am red and blue.
I am a mask.
I have got a spider on chest.
I am faster than a wave.
I am faster than a bird.
I have red shoes.



We have done some fantastic artwork this half term and we really enjoyed making our own Superhero street scene.



News from Year 3



In science we have been learning about plants. We have been exploring the different parts of a plant and what jobs they do. We investigated what would happen if celery was put in water that had food colouring in it. We had a fantastic result with the red food colouring, showing that the stem sucks up the water which travelled to the leaves and turned them a red/orange colour.

During our explore lesson in our new RE topic, about the Eucharist, we explored the meaning behind the story 'Stone Soup'. We then put together our story relating to times that we have shared to benefit others.

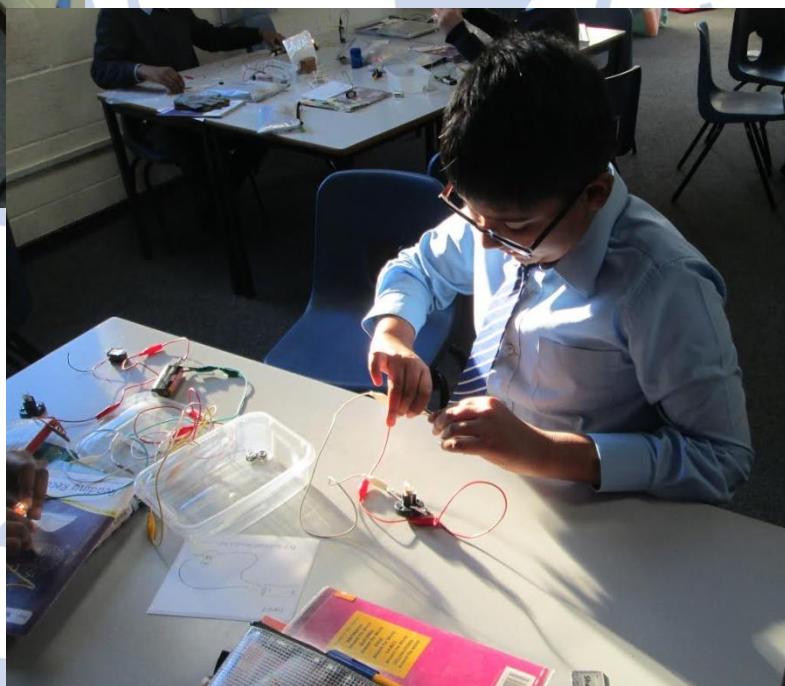
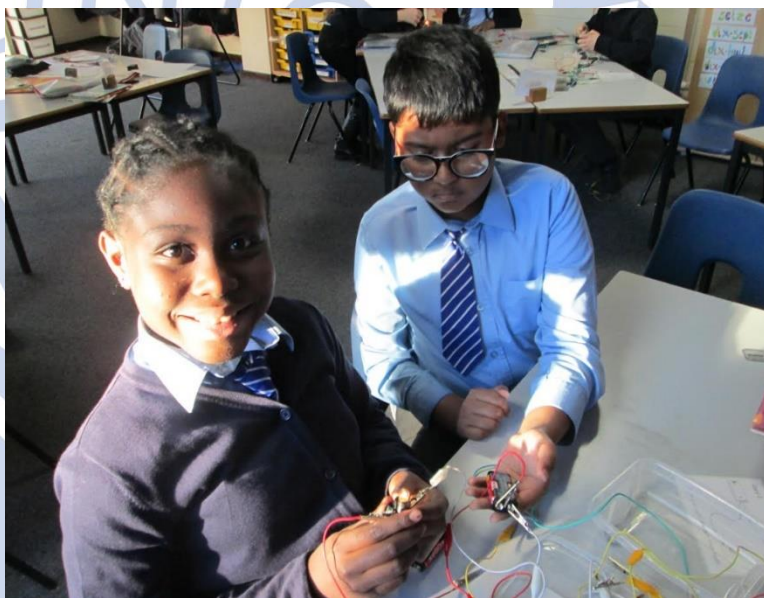
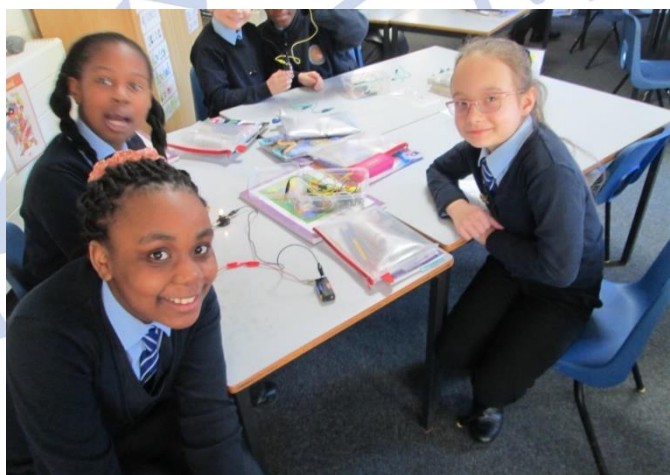


In history we have been learning about World War 2 and we are looking forward to our visit to Bletchley Park next week. We have linked our art lessons experimenting with blending and defining keywords such as background, foreground and silhouette.



News from Year 4

Year 4 are exploring Electricity in Science at the moment. They've been having great fun building and testing circuits.



News from Year 5

In Year 5 this half term we have been learning about the artist, Peter Thorpe. He is known as an abstract artist which means that he does not represent our everyday world in his pictures. Peter Thorpe was also recognised as an artist who liked to draw abstract pictures of space which is something, as humans, we have a lot to learn about so is perfect for what he specialises in. It was also useful to us here at St Monica's as it linked to our current Science topic. During the process, Year 5 painted an abstract space picture using pencil crayons, learning how to create a background and foreground and making improvements, before they completed their final piece using paint. We hope you enjoy looking at some of our favourite designs.



News from Year 6

Before Christmas, the children in Year 6 enjoyed their Accelerated Reader Prize of making and decorating gingerbread men. There were many happy faces as they were devoured head first! This half term, the children have come back to school working hard and are eager to learn. The highlight for them this half term has been the excellent writing they did about Smoothies! They sampled, compared and reviewed 4 different smoothies. They were most surprised by the green Lime and Cucumber smoothie which looked 'disgusting' (Amber, St. Peter) but actually tasted 'refreshing and delicious!' (Joella, St. Peter). As we approach half term, the children are half way through Year 6 and only 10 teaching weeks away from their SATS. The children have been working hard and after half term, will begin more revision lessons in Grammar, Maths and Reading. If you wish to support your child at home in their learning, please speak to your child's teacher on the best ways to do this.



The Rainbow Club

Come and join our lively and thriving Breakfast and After School Club!

We have a wide range of activities to meet the needs of every child in a fully inclusive environment.



We are open from 7.30am until 6.00pm and offer great value for money with every session providing a nutritious snack.

Please check us out and sign up on our school website.

Alternatively email Rainbowclub@st-monicas.co.uk for further information. Our fully trained staff offer a friendly service and give you reassurance that your children will be well cared for.

Lost Property

Please can you make sure your child's full name is on each item of school uniform which they bring to school as we have had a lot of lost property already this year. If your child's property is named clearly it is likely to get back to them very quickly - unnamed uniform is much more likely to remain unrecovered.

Looking for Name Labels?

Name labels are the latest initiative from (our PTA) FOSM.

St Monica's is registered with Stikins, a family owned business, which promotes a school fundraising scheme through which the school can receive 30% commission on every order placed quoting the school reference number (21229).

Why choose Stikins Name Labels?

1. Easy to use!

Stikins® name labels are made of an advanced material; all you have to do is stick them onto the wash-care label of clothes. They are a one-size, multipurpose label, which can also be used on school items such as shoes, plastic boxes, water bottles, pencil cases etc.

2. Help your school!

For each order placed ordering St Monica's unique code (21229), we earn 30% commission for the school. You can order online (<http://www.stikins.co.uk/>), over the phone (01270 668076) or by using the order form on the leaflet we've given you. If you use the link on the uniform page of our school's website, the school's code is automatically filled in for you.

<https://st-monicas.co.uk/information/uniform-and-dress-code/>



We print labels every working day
up to 3pm & send them out same day
by first class post.

Packs

120 STIKINS® Name Labels - N120
90 STIKINS® Name Labels - N90
60 STIKINS® Name Labels - N60
30 STIKINS® Name Labels - N30

2021 Prices

£14.20
£12.00
£9.50
£6.80

Prices include
VAT & UK delivery

Order online at www.stikins.co.uk – Pay by Credit/Debit Card, PayPal, or Apple Pay
Order by phone on **01270 668076** – Pay by Credit/Debit Card

Parking

We constantly have complaints from neighbours about disruption from parking, particularly at the end of the school day. Please can you park observing the rules of the road, including with regard to stopping in the middle of the road and parking on yellow lines? Please do not block parking spaces, junctions, driveways or park on corners of the paths.





St Joan – 5DB



St Joseph–6FC



**St Augustine –
5KB**

Group	% Attend
St. Joan	96.5
St. Joseph	95.6
St. Augustine	95.3
St. Peter	95.2
St. Lucy	95.1
St. James	94.7
St. Clare	94.7
St. Catherine	94.4
St. Mark	94.4
St. Thomas	92.1
St. Therese	92
Average	94.5



**Attendance
Matters**

Every student. Every day.

Answer to the maths puzzle: Freddie's mother is 160cm

Freddie 180cm-100cm (1m) = 80cm

Freddie is half the height of his mother.
So we double 80cm to get 160cm

Diary Dates

Date	Time	Event
Friday, 10 th February	3.15pm	School closes for half term
<i>School closed for Half Term – Monday 13th to Friday 17th January</i>		
Monday, 20 th February	Morning	School re-opens to children
Wednesday, 22 nd February	3.30pm	Year 3/4 Football matches at St Paul's Year 5/6 Netball matches at St Paul's
Monday, 30 th January	TBC	Year 5/6 Handball Competition at Gilesbrook School
Wednesday, 1 st March	8.00am – 8.40am	Breakfast with books (in the hall)
Wednesday, 1 st March	3.30pm	Year 5/6 Football matches at St Paul's Year 3/4 Netball matches at St Paul's
Thursday, 2 nd March	All Day	World Book Day FOSM – Film Night
Friday, 3 rd March	All Day	Year 5 Trip to National Space Museum
Monday, 13 th to Thursday, 16 th March	After School and one Evening	Parent/Teacher meetings in school – details TBC
Tuesday, 14 th March	All Day	St Paul's School in school – British Science Week activities
Wednesday, 15 th March	After school	Mother's Day cookie sale. More information to follow.
Friday, 17 th March	9.00am – 9.30am	Year 6 Stay and Pray
Wednesday, 22 nd March	1.45pm	Year 3/4 Easter Performance to Parents
Thursday, 23 rd March	1.45pm	Year 3/4 Easter Performance to Parents
Thursday, 23 rd March	6.00pm	Year 3/4 Easter Performance to Parents
Friday, 24 th March	9.00am – 9.30am	Year 5 Stay and Pray
Tuesday, 28 th March	9.00am	Year 1/2 Great Fire of London Trunk Show
Wednesday, 29 th March	3.15pm	Choir at Milton Keynes Music Festival at Christ the Cornerstone
Friday, 31 st March	9.00am – 9.30am	Year 4 Stay and Pray
Friday, 31 st March	3.15pm	School closes for Easter Holidays
<i>School closed for Easter Holidays – Monday, 3rd April to Friday, 14th April</i>		
Monday, 17 th April	Morning	School opens for Summer Term